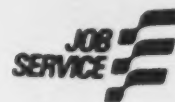


5/3/88

S 3320-2



LOUISIANA LABOR MARKET INFORMATION



LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

PHYLLIS C. MOUTON, SECRETARY

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 94094

MARCH, 1988

RELEASE DATE:
April 25, 1988

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

	PRELIMINARY MARCH 1988				REVISED FEBRUARY 1988				REVISED MARCH 1987			
(in thousands)	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
LOUISIANA	1,900.4	1,678.1	222.3	11.7	1,910.3	1676.5	233.8	12.2	1,966.4	1,690.2	276.2	14.0
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	60.3	53.8	6.5	10.7	60.6	53.8	6.8	11.2	60.8	53.8	7.0	11.6
Baton Rouge 2/	259.7	234.3	25.4	9.8	261.5	234.3	27.2	10.4	265.0	235.5	29.5	11.1
Houma - Thibodaux 3/	69.6	60.4	9.2	13.2	70.0	60.3	9.7	13.9	74.9	59.3	15.6	20.9
Lafayette 4/	97.0	86.4	10.6	10.9	97.8	86.6	11.2	11.5	103.1	87.2	15.9	15.4
Lake Charles 5/	74.8	65.1	9.7	12.9	75.5	65.1	10.4	13.8	75.8	65.3	10.5	13.8
Monroe 6/	67.9	60.3	7.6	11.2	68.2	60.2	8.0	11.7	70.3	62.2	8.1	11.5
New Orleans 7/	587.8	530.5	57.3	9.8	590.2	531.0	59.2	10.0	606.0	538.3	67.7	11.2
Shreveport 8/	164.3	145.8	18.5	11.3	165.4	146.0	19.4	11.8	169.1	146.6	22.5	13.3

Parishes included in above Labor Market Areas are listed at the end of the Employment and Payroll Trends narrative.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Louisiana was estimated at 1,494,600 for March, an increase of 4,900 from the February revised figure and 29,700 above the comparable period a year ago. The state's nonmanufacturing employment increase was centered in construction and services. Manufacturing payrolls for March increased in the durable goods industry.

This public document was published at a total cost of \$1,079.79. 2,900 copies of this public document were published in this 1st printing at a cost of \$1,079.79. The total cost of all printing of this document, including reprints, is \$1,079.79. This document was published by the Louisiana Department of Labor, Office of Employment Security, Research and Statistics Unit, P.O. Box 94094, Baton Rouge, La. 70804-9094. Its purpose is to disseminate information pertaining to labor market developments and employment trends under the authority of Part 602.6, Title 20, Chap. V. of the Code of Federal Regulations. It was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31.

Durable goods employment for March, at 73,900 was 1,100 higher than last month and 5,500 above the March 1987 figure. Concrete, gypsum and plaster products manufacturing was among several segments of the stone, clay and glass products industry experiencing increased activity in March. An increase in business for ship and boat building and repairing firms was responsible for the gain in transportation equipment.

Employment in the nondurable goods segment of manufacturing was estimated at 93,200 for March, a decrease of 200 from the February level. The most significant factor in this month's decrease of nondurable goods employment in the food and kindred products industry was a decrease in production of bakery products.

Louisiana's employment for the nonmanufacturing industries during March was 1,327,500, up by 4,000 over the February revised level. Mining employment was higher due to an increase in the exploration for oil and gas. An upturn in heavy construction payrolls contributed to the higher level of employment for total construction for March. Transportation and public utilities employment held steady for March. Trade employment fell by 500 workers due largely to decreases in the retail trade segment. Finance, insurance and real estate rose by 100 employees. Personnel services, business services and health services were largely responsible for the growth of employment for total services. Estimated government employment for March was up by 400 due in large part to an increase in state education payrolls.

Average weekly earnings of Louisiana's production workers in manufacturing increased from \$453.78 in February to \$455.99 in March, an increase of \$2.21, but a decrease of \$1.72 from the comparable period a year ago. Average hourly earnings were five cents lower in March than last month, and \$0.17 lower than the year-ago figure. Weekly hours averaged 42.3 for the current month, up 0.4 hours from February's revised level.

Estimated total unemployment for Louisiana during March amounted to 222,300, a decrease of 11,500 below February's revised level of 233,800. The unemployment rate for March was 11.7 percent, compared to 12.2 percent for the prior month and 14.0 percent for March 1987. The comparable national unemployment rate for March was 5.9 percent, compared to 6.2 percent in February and 6.9 percent for March of last year. The state's civilian labor force decreased from 1,910,300 in February to 1,900,400 in March, a loss of 9,900. Total employment, estimated at 1,678,100 for the current month, was up by 1,600 over last month's revised figure but was 12,100 below March of last year.

Louisiana's unemployment rate may fall in the next month. Manufacturing employment could edge up. Construction payrolls could benefit from better weather conditions.

1/ Rapides Parish only. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Includes Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes. 4/ Includes Lafayette and St. Martin parishes. 5/ Calcasieu Parish only. 6/ Ouachita Parish only. 7/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes. 8/ Includes Bossier and Caddo parishes.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1988*	February 1988**	March 1987**	Net Change from	
				February 1988	March 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	1,494.6	1,489.7	1,464.9	+ 4.9	+29.7
MINING	55.0	54.7	53.2	+ 0.3	+ 1.8
Oil and Gas Extraction	52.2	52.0	50.5	+ 0.2	+ 1.7
Nonmetallic Minerals	2.8	2.7	2.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	78.9	76.9	78.9	+ 2.0	0
MANUFACTURING	167.1	166.2	159.5	+ 0.9	+ 7.6
Durable Goods	73.9	72.8	68.4	+ 1.1	+ 5.5
Lumber and Wood Products	12.0	11.9	12.2	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Furniture and Fixtures	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	5.5	5.3	5.5	+ 0.2	0
Primary Metal Industries	2.9	2.9	2.8	0	+ 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	11.1	11.0	10.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Machinery, Except Electrical	9.0	8.9	7.6	+ 0.1	+ 1.4
Electrical & Electronic Equipment	7.2	7.1	7.6	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Transportation Equipment	23.0	22.5	19.0	+ 0.5	+ 4.0
Other Durable Goods (1)	2.5	2.5	2.2	0	+ 0.3
Nondurable Goods	93.2	93.4	91.1	- 0.2	+ 2.1
Food & Kindred Products	18.8	19.1	19.1	- 0.3	- 0.3
Apparel & Other Textile Products	9.4	9.5	8.6	- 0.1	+ 0.8
Paper & Allied Products	12.1	12.0	11.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Printing & Publishing	10.3	10.2	9.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Chemicals & Allied Products	25.4	25.4	25.0	0	+ 0.4
Petroleum and Coal Products	12.3	12.3	12.2	0	+ 0.1
Petroleum Refining	11.4	11.4	11.1	0	+ 0.3
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	4.9	4.9	4.7	0	+ 0.2
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	103.9	103.9	103.2	0	+ 0.7
Railroad Transportation	5.1	5.1	5.4	0	- 0.3
Transportation, ex. Railroads	58.7	58.7	57.6	0	+ 1.1
Water Transportation	23.1	23.0	22.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Communication & Electric, Gas & Sanitary Ser.	40.1	40.1	40.2	0	- 0.1
Communication, Exc. U S Postal Service	18.0	17.9	18.4	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	22.1	22.2	21.8	- 0.1	+ 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	362.1	362.6	356.3	- 0.5	+ 5.8
Wholesale Trade	82.4	82.3	80.2	+ 0.1	+ 2.2
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	45.8	45.6	44.7	+ 0.2	+ 1.1
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	36.6	36.7	35.5	- 0.1	+ 1.1
Retail Trade	279.7	280.3	276.1	- 0.6	+ 3.6
Gen. Merchandise, Apparel & Acc.	57.6	57.7	56.6	- 0.1	+ 1.0
Food Stores	56.0	56.2	54.8	- 0.2	+ 1.2
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	30.4	30.4	29.3	0	+ 1.1
Eating & Drinking Places	84.6	84.6	85.3	0	- 0.7
Other Retail Trade	51.1	51.4	50.1	- 0.3	+ 1.0

LOUISIANA, - CONTINUED
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1988*	February 1988**	March 1987**	Net Change from	
				February 1988	March 1987
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	84.7	84.6	84.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
Banking	24.8	24.9	25.5	- 0.1	- 0.7
SERVICES	328.3	326.6	314.5	+ 1.7	+13.8
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	22.4	22.4	21.6	0	+ 0.8
Personal Services	14.8	14.4	14.3	+ 0.4	+ 0.5
Business Services	57.9	57.2	55.3	+ 0.7	+ 2.6
Auto Repair, Services & Garages	9.5	9.4	9.5	+ 0.1	0
Miscellaneous Repair Services	5.4	5.4	5.3	0	+ 0.1
Amusement & Recreation Services	8.6	8.8	7.6	- 0.2	+ 1.0
Health Services	103.0	102.6	98.6	+ 0.4	+ 4.4
Legal Services	15.4	15.4	14.7	0	+ 0.7
Educational Services	25.7	25.6	22.6	+ 0.1	+ 3.1
Social Services	19.0	18.9	18.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Membership Organizations	25.7	25.6	25.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Miscellaneous Services	15.0	15.0	15.1	0	- 0.1
GOVERNMENT	314.6	314.2	315.2	+ 0.4	- 0.6
Federal	36.2	36.2	35.9	0	+ 0.3
State and Local	278.4	278.0	279.3	+ 0.4	- 0.9
State	98.2	97.9	97.6	+ 0.3	+ 0.6
Local	180.2	180.1	181.7	+ 0.1	- 1.5

* Preliminary

**Revised

(1) Includes Professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries

(2) Includes Leather, Rubber and Textile products.

All estimates of Nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication are prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, with the exception of the Lake Charles LMA which is prepared under the auspices of the Louisiana Department of Labor, and include all full time and part time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	Average			Average			Average		
	Weekly Earnings			Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	March '88*	February '88**	March '87**	March '88*	February '88**	March '87**	March '88*	February '88**	March '87**
ALL MANUFACTURING (1)									
Durable Goods	\$455.99	\$453.78	\$457.71	42.3	41.9	41.8	\$10.78	\$10.83	\$10.95
Lumber & Wood Products	417.22	410.48	411.35	42.4	41.8	41.3	9.84	9.82	9.96
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	349.49	363.54	346.33	43.2	43.8	43.4	8.09	8.30	7.98
Fabricated Metal Products	373.01	367.69	365.31	40.5	40.9	40.5	9.21	8.99	9.02
Machinery, ex. Electrical	443.49	440.74	423.58	45.3	44.7	42.4	9.79	9.86	9.99
Electric & Electronic Equip.	388.94	375.65	386.75	43.8	41.1	43.7	8.88	9.14	8.85
Transportation Equipment	538.00	515.29	555.16	41.1	40.1	40.2	13.09	12.85	13.81
	440.84	429.95	431.34	41.2	40.6	39.0	10.70	10.59	11.00
Nondurable Goods									
Food & Kindred Products	490.36	491.82	496.69	42.2	42.0	42.2	11.62	11.71	11.77
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	299.92	293.68	302.25	38.8	37.7	38.7	7.73	7.79	7.81
Paper & Allied Products	204.38	203.96	200.09	37.5	37.7	37.4	5.45	5.41	5.35
Printing & Publishing	567.67	565.45	553.71	43.6	43.0	42.3	13.02	13.15	13.09
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	397.00	388.96	407.54	38.1	37.8	39.3	10.42	10.29	10.37
Petroleum & Coal Products	707.17	700.58	691.20	46.1	45.7	45.0	15.34	15.33	15.36
Petroleum Refining	671.13	697.16	720.85	45.5	46.2	47.3	14.75	15.09	15.24
	677.55	707.78	737.07	45.2	46.2	47.4	14.99	15.32	15.55
MINING									
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	526.77	529.62	536.40	45.1	45.5	45.0	11.68	11.64	11.92
BANKING	504.40	511.81	494.09	38.8	39.4	40.4	13.00	12.99	12.23
	264.83	262.67	255.06	37.3	37.1	39.0	7.10	7.08	6.54

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 123,000 full and part-time workers in manufacturing and 89,600 nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect over-time, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SITUATION BY LABOR MARKET AREA

PRELIMINARY 03 88

REVISED 02 88

	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE		LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE
CROWLEY (ACADIA)	22,675	19,325	3,350	14.8		22,700	19,225	3,475	15.3
OAKDALE (ALLEN)	9,500	8,175	1,325	14.0		9,550	8,150	1,400	14.6
NAPOLEONVILLE (ASSUMPTION)	5,850	4,250	1,600	27.4		6,000	4,125	1,875	31.1
BUNKIE (AVOUELLES)	15,125	12,175	2,950	19.5		15,250	12,050	3,200	21.0
DERIDDER (BEAUREGARD)	14,800	13,200	1,600	10.9		14,650	12,875	1,775	12.1
ARCADIA (BIENVILLE)	6,500	5,550	950	14.7		6,350	5,525	825	13.2
COLUMBIA (CALDWELL)	4,275	3,600	675	15.7		4,275	3,575	700	16.6
CAMERON (CAMERON)	4,325	3,725	600	13.8		4,325	3,750	575	13.3
JONESVILLE (CATAHOULA)	4,250	3,225	1,025	24.2		4,350	3,200	1,150	26.4
HOMER (CLAIBORNE)	7,950	7,150	800	10.1		7,675	7,075	800	10.2
FERRIDAY (CONCORDIA)	9,750	7,950	1,800	18.5		10,025	7,975	2,050	20.5
MANSFIELD (DESOTO)	13,025	11,275	1,750	13.4		12,725	11,100	1,625	12.8
LAKE PROVIDENCE (E. CARROLL)	4,275	3,275	1,000	23.2		4,350	3,225	1,125	26.0
CLINTON (EAST FELICIANA)	8,225	7,350	875	10.6		8,300	7,275	1,025	12.3
VILLE PLATTE (EVANGELINE)	12,500	10,750	1,750	14.0		12,600	10,700	1,900	15.1
WINNSBORO (FRANKLIN)	8,150	6,725	1,425	17.5		8,250	6,600	1,650	19.9
COLFAX (GRANT)	6,750	5,700	1,050	15.6		6,850	5,725	1,125	16.4
NEW IBERIA (IBERIA)	24,500	20,675	3,825	15.7		24,800	20,650	4,150	16.7
PLAQUEMINE (IBERVILLE)	11,425	9,450	1,975	17.3		11,500	9,425	2,075	18.1
JONESBORO (JACKSON)	7,325	6,675	650	9.0		7,425	6,600	825	11.1
JENNINGS (JEFFERSON DAVIS)	12,400	10,425	1,975	15.8		12,450	10,375	2,075	16.7
JENA (LASALLE)	6,350	5,650	700	11.1		6,400	5,650	750	11.8
RUSTON (LINCOLN)	17,725	16,675	1,050	6.0		17,750	16,650	1,100	6.2
TALLULAH (MADISON)	5,750	4,675	1,075	18.6		5,975	4,700	1,275	21.3
BASTROP (MOREHOUSE)	12,300	10,075	2,225	18.1		12,425	10,050	2,375	19.1
NATCHITOCHES (NATCHITOCHES)	16,400	14,475	1,925	11.7		16,300	14,400	1,900	11.6
POINT-A-LA-HACHE (PLAQUEMINE)	9,025	7,850	1,175	13.0		9,100	7,875	1,225	13.5
NEW ROADS (POINTE COUPÉE)	7,300	5,925	1,375	18.7		7,350	5,850	1,500	20.3
COUSHATTA (RED RIVER)	4,850	3,675	1,175	24.1		4,200	3,600	600	14.5
RAYVILLE (RICHLAND)	9,025	7,450	1,575	17.4		9,000	7,375	1,625	18.0
MANY (SABINE)	9,600	8,825	775	10.0		9,725	8,725	1,000	10.3
GREENSBURG (ST. HELENA)	2,625	2,250	375	14.1		2,600	2,200	400	15.6
LUTCHER (ST. JAMES)	8,225	6,800	1,425	17.4		8,375	6,825	1,550	18.4
OPELOUSAS (ST. LANDRY)	32,875	27,300	5,575	17.0		33,200	27,250	5,950	17.9
MORGAN CITY (ST. MARY)	22,925	18,800	4,125	18.0		23,325	18,800	4,525	19.4
HAMMOND (TANGIPAHOA)	38,500	32,925	5,575	14.5		38,475	32,850	5,625	14.6
ST. JOSEPH (TENSAS)	3,150	2,650	500	15.9		3,225	2,650	575	18.0
FARMERVILLE (UNION)	8,225	7,075	1,150	14.0		8,200	7,000	1,200	14.5
ABBEVILLE (VERMILION)	19,725	16,350	3,375	17.1		19,750	16,225	3,525	17.8
LEESVILLE (VERNON)	19,175	17,275	1,900	9.9		19,275	17,225	2,050	10.7
BOGALUSA (WASHINGTON)	17,825	15,750	2,075	11.7		17,950	15,700	2,250	12.7
MINDEN (WEBSTER)	19,025	16,150	2,875	15.1		19,150	16,200	2,950	15.4
OAK GROVE (WEST CARROLL)	4,900	3,500	1,400	28.5		4,925	3,450	1,475	29.9
ST. FRANCISVILLE (W. FELIC.)	4,200	3,775	425	10.0		4,175	3,700	475	11.5
WINNFIELD (WINN)	5,525	5,000	525	9.6		5,650	5,050	600	10.6

NOTE: LABOR MARKET AREAS ARE DESIGNATED BY NAME OF PRINCIPAL TOWN, BUT INCLUDE ALL OF PARISH IN PARENTHESES.

ABOVE DATA ROUNDED TO NEAREST 25 EXCEPT LMAS AND STATEWIDE WHICH ARE ROUNDED TO NEAREST 100. SUBTOTALS MAY NOT ADD TO TOTALS DUE TO ROUNDING. RATES COMPUTED FROM UNROUNDED DATA.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

ALEXANDRIA AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1988*	February 1988**	March 1987**	Net Change From	
				February 1988	March 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	45.4	45.4	44.5	0	+ 0.9
MANUFACTURING	3.4	3.5	3.4	- 0.1	0
Durable Goods	2.0	2.1	2.1	- 0.1	- 0.1
Lumber & Wood Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Other Durable Goods	1.6	1.7	1.7	- 0.1	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	1.4	1.4	1.3	0	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.9	0.9	0.8	0	+ 0.1
MINING	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	11.0	10.9	10.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
Retail Trade	8.8	8.7	8.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.0	2.0	2.0	0	0
Auto Dirs. & Svc. Sta.	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2.3	2.2	2.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Other Retail Trade	3.5	3.5	3.4	0	+ 0.1
FINANCE, INS., & REAL ESTATE	2.6	2.6	2.5	0	+ 0.1
SERVICES	11.1	11.1	10.8	0	+ 0.3
Health Services	4.9	4.9	4.6	0	+ 0.3
GOVERNMENT	12.7	12.7	12.5	0	+ 0.2
Federal	2.7	2.7	2.6	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	10.0	10.0	9.9	0	+ 0.1
State	4.8	4.8	4.7	0	+ 0.1
Local	5.2	5.2	5.2	0	0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria labor market area was estimated at 45,400 for the month of March. This estimate was the same as last month, and 900 more than March of last year.

Employment in manufacturing was estimated at 3,400 during March. This estimate was 100 less than February, and the decline occurred in other durable goods. Since March of last year, total manufacturing has not changed, but there were offsetting changes in other durable and nondurable goods.

Employment in nonmanufacturing was estimated at 42,000 during March. This estimate was 100 more than the previous month and 900 more than last March. Since last month, the only increase occurred in retail trade. Since last March, employment in nonmanufacturing has increased by 900. Industries showing improvements include all major segments except mining and construction.

During the next thirty days employment should increase slightly with a corresponding decline in the number of unemployed.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1988*	February 1988**	March 1987**	Net Change From	
				February 1988	March 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	212.6	212.2	209.7	+ 0.4	+ 2.9
MANUFACTURING	18.7	18.7	18.2	0	+ 0.5
Durable Goods	4.0	4.0	3.8	0	+ 0.2
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Fabricated Metal Products	1.1	1.1	1.0	0	+ 0.1
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.6	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	14.7	14.7	14.4	0	+ 0.3
Food & Kindred Products	1.8	1.8	1.8	0	0
Printing & Publishing	1.5	1.5	1.4	0	+ 0.1
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	10.2	10.2	10.1	0	+ 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.1	0	+ 0.1
MINING	0.8	0.8	0.9	0	- 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	19.9	19.7	19.6	+ 0.2	+ 0.3
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	10.4	10.4	10.4	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	50.5	50.3	49.9	+ 0.2	+ 0.6
Wholesale Trade	11.5	11.5	10.7	0	+ 0.8
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	7.8	7.8	7.4	0	+ 0.4
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	3.7	3.7	3.3	0	+ 0.4
Retail Trade	39.0	38.8	39.2	+ 0.2	- 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	13.4	13.4	13.2	0	+ 0.2
Banking	3.5	3.5	3.7	0	- 0.2
SERVICES	43.6	43.6	42.1	0	+ 1.5
GOVERNMENT	55.3	55.3	55.4	0	- 0.1
Federal	2.3	2.3	2.2	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	53.0	53.0	53.2	0	- 0.2
State	30.5	30.6	31.2	- 0.1	- 0.7
Local	22.5	22.4	22.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.5

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March '88*	February '88**	March '87**	March '88*	February '88**	March '87**	March '88*	February '88**	March '87**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	\$529.48	\$540.82	\$519.16	42.7	43.3	42.8	\$12.40	\$12.49	\$12.13
Petro-Chemicals	684.78	712.62	678.60	45.5	47.1	46.8	15.05	15.13	14.50

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 12,400 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.'

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural employment in the Baton Rouge LMA, at 212,600 during March, was up 400 from the revised February estimate and up 2,900 over the comparable period a year ago.

Employment in manufacturing, at 18,700, was unchanged during the current period. However, March employment was up from the year-ago totals in the following industries: fabricated metal products, other durable goods, printing and publishing, chemical and petroleum products, and other nondurable goods.

Total nonmanufacturing was up 400 during March. Construction was up due to more business in general building contractors-nonresidential buildings. Retail trade was up due to more business in eating and drinking places. Staff reductions in state government were offset by payroll increases in local government.

Average weekly earnings of the Baton Rouge LMA's 12,400 production workers in all manufacturing industries was \$529.48, down \$11.34 from the revised February average. Average weekly hours, at 42.7, were down 0.6 hours and average hourly earnings were down nine cents per hour. Less overtime worked at premium pay contributed to these changes.

Total employment of the Baton Rouge LMA's residents was 234,300 during March, unchanged from the revised February estimate. Unemployment, at 25,400, was down 1,800 during the current period. The local unemployment rate was 9.8 percent, compared to 10.4 percent for February and 11.1 percent for March of last year. Baton Rouge's civilian labor force totaled 259,700 during the current period.

The Baton Rouge Job Service Office served 3,928 individuals with new and renewal applications, and placed 743 applicants in jobs during March.

The consumer price index for February, 1988 for all urban consumers was 116.0 and for all urban wage and clerical workers 114.7 using base period 1982, 1983, 1984=100.

Employment is expected to decline during the coming months due to announced state government budget reductions, while seasonal changes may increase the unemployment rate in the Baton Rouge area.

HOUMA - THIBODAUX AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1988*	February 1988**	March 1987**	Net Change From	
				February 1988	March 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	52.5	52.1	50.5	+ 0.4	+ 2.0
MANUFACTURING	4.3	4.1	3.6	+ 0.2	+ 0.7
Durable Goods	3.0	2.9	2.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.9
Nondurable Goods	1.3	1.2	1.5	+ 0.1	- 0.2
MINING	5.9	5.8	5.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
CONSTRUCTION	1.6	1.5	1.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	5.8	5.7	5.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Water Transportation	3.5	3.5	3.2	0	+ 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	13.3	13.3	12.9	0	+ 0.4
Wholesale Trade	2.8	2.7	2.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	10.5	10.6	10.2	- 0.1	+ 0.3
Eating & Drinking Places	3.1	3.2	2.9	- 0.1	+ 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.3	2.3	2.3	0	0
SERVICES	8.8	8.8	8.5	0	+ 0.3
GOVERNMENT	10.5	10.6	10.7	- 0.1	- 0.2
Federal	0.4	0.4	0.5	0	- 0.1
State and Local	10.1	10.2	10.2	- 0.1	- 0.1
State	2.8	2.9	2.9	- 0.1	- 0.1
Local	7.3	7.3	7.3	0	0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Houma-Thibodaux labor market area in March moved up to 52,500, a level 400 above February. Many segments of employment showed small increases. Since March of 1987, total employment exhibited a gain of 2,000, or almost 4 percent.

Manufacturing employment totaled 4,300 in March, up 200 from the previous month. The durable goods segment increased 100 due to more business, with gains spread throughout the industries. The nondurable goods segment was up 100 over the previous month, with seafood processing accounting for most of the increase.

Mining added workers as weather became more favorable for outside activity. Construction pushed up seasonally. In transportation and public utilities, water transportation held steady, but other industries in this division displayed a small overall gain. Retail trade eased down, mostly in employment by eating and drinking places. Wholesale trade edged up in durable goods. Finance, insurance, and real estate held steady. Services showed no significant change. State government tapered off in employment by educational services.

Estimated unemployment in March was 9,200, down 500 from February. Unemployment presently comprises 13.2 percent of the labor force compared to 13.9 percent in February and 20.9 percent in March 1987. Recipients of regular unemployment benefit numbered 1,578.

Nonagricultural employment in the coming months is expected to show a small seasonal gain. Construction and mining will benefit from better weather for outside work. Retail trade will probably add workers. Unemployment is predicted to show some decreases as employment increases.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1988*	February 1988**	March 1987**	Net Change From	
				February 1988	March 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	82.2	82.3	80.8	- 0.1	+ 1.4
MANUFACTURING	6.0	6.0	5.7	0	+ 0.3
Durable Goods	1.4	1.4	1.3	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	4.6	4.6	4.4	0	+ 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
MINING	10.4	10.4	10.2	0	+ 0.2
CONSTRUCTION	3.0	2.9	3.1	+ 0.1	- 0.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	5.5	5.5	5.7	0	- 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	22.4	22.5	22.4	- 0.1	0
Wholesale Trade	5.1	5.2	5.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	3.0	3.0	2.9	0	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	2.1	2.2	2.1	- 0.1	0
Retail Trade	17.3	17.3	17.4	0	- 0.1
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.7	2.7	2.9	0	- 0.2
Food Stores	2.9	2.9	2.9	0	0
Auto. Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.8	1.8	1.5	0	+ 0.3
Other Retail Trade	9.9	9.9	10.1	0	- 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	3.7	3.7	4.0	0	- 0.3
Banking	1.1	1.1	1.4	0	- 0.3
SERVICES	18.3	18.3	16.6	0	+ 1.7
GOVERNMENT	12.9	13.0	13.1	- 0.1	- 0.2
Federal	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
State and Local	12.0	12.1	12.2	- 0.1	- 0.2
State	5.1	5.1	5.0	0	+ 0.1
Local	6.9	7.0	7.2	- 0.1	- 0.3

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lafayette labor market area was estimated at 82,200, a decrease of 100 from the previous month but 1,400 above the March 1987 level.

Employment in construction rose by 100 in March but is 100 below the comparable period a year ago. Wholesale and retail trade showed a decrease of 100 from last month's revised figure. Government decreased by 100 for March and is down 200 from March 1987. All other sectors showed no change from the previous month.

For the next thirty days, employment and the unemployment rate should remain stable.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1988*	February 1988**	March 1987**	Net Change From February 1988	March 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	58.0	57.7	57.0	+ 0.3	+ 1.0
MANUFACTURING	11.1	11.0	10.0	+ 0.1	+ 1.1
Durable Goods	2.6	2.6	1.7	0	+ 0.9
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	2.4	2.4	1.5	0	+ 0.9
Nondurable Goods	8.5	8.4	8.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Chemical & Pet. Products	7.7	7.6	7.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	+ 0.1
MINING	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	3.9	3.8	4.5	+ 0.1	- 0.6
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	3.9	3.9	3.7	0	+ 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.4	14.2	14.0	+ 0.2	+ 0.4
Wholesale Trade	2.9	2.9	2.7	0	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	11.5	11.3	11.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.0	2.0	2.3	0	- 0.3
Auto Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.2	1.2	1.1	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.9	3.8	3.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.8	2.8	2.7	0	+ 0.1
Banking	1.1	1.1	1.0	0	+ 0.1
SERVICES	11.0	11.1	10.9	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Personal Services	0.4	0.4	0.5	0	- 0.1
GOVERNMENT	10.0	10.0	10.3	0	- 0.3
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	9.4	9.4	9.7	0	- 0.3
State	3.5	3.5	3.3	0	+ 0.2
Local	5.9	5.9	6.4	0	- 0.5

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lake Charles LMA was estimated at 58,000, an increase of 300 from February's revised figure and 1,000 above the March 1987 figure.

Manufacturing increased by 100 in the chemical and petroleum products industry. Compared to a year ago, manufacturing is up by 1,100. Construction rose by 100 for March but is 600 below the March 1987 figure. Wholesale and retail trade moved up by 200 from the previous month and is 400 above the comparable period a year ago. Services moved down by 100 from last month's figure but showed an increase of 100 over the March 1987 revised figure.

The unemployment rate should remain close to the present level for the next 30 days.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1988*	February 1988**	March 1987**	Net Change From	
				February 1988	March 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	53.3	53.1	53.9	+ 0.2	- 0.6
MANUFACTURING	7.2	7.2	7.3	0	- 0.1
Durable Goods	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0
Lumber & Wood Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	2.0	2.0	2.0	0	0
Nondurable Goods	5.0	5.0	5.1	0	- 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.7	0.7	0.8	0	- 0.1
Chemical & Allied Products	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	3.8	3.8	3.7	0	+ 0.1
MINING	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2.6	2.5	2.8	+ 0.1	- 0.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.6	2.6	2.8	0	- 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.1	14.1	14.3	0	- 0.2
Wholesale Trade	3.8	3.8	3.6	0	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	10.3	10.3	10.7	0	- 0.4
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.4	2.4	2.6	0	- 0.2
Auto Dealers & Serv. Sta.	1.1	1.0	1.1	+ 0.1	0
Eating & Drinking Places	3.4	3.4	3.6	0	- 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.4	4.4	4.4	0	0
Banking	1.0	1.0	1.1	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	11.5	11.4	11.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	+ 0.1
Personal Services	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
Health Services	5.1	5.1	4.9	0	+ 0.2
GOVERNMENT	10.6	10.6	10.6	0	0
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	10.0	10.0	10.0	0	0
State	4.8	4.8	4.2	0	+ 0.6
Local	5.2	5.2	5.8	0	- 0.6

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment, estimated at 53,300, was 200 above the February estimate.

Manufacturing, estimated at 7,200, was unchanged over the month.

Construction, estimated at 2,600, was 100 above the February estimate and reflects an improvement in weather conditions. Services, estimated at 11,500, was up by 100. All other segments were unchanged over the month.

Employment is expected to increase slightly over the next 30 days as weather conditions improve. Unemployment is expected to remain high.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1988*	February 1988**	March 1987**	Net Change From February 1988	March 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	510.2	509.8	507.0	+ 0.4	+ 3.2
MANUFACTURING	43.3	43.1	41.1	+ 0.2	+ 2.2
Durable Goods	22.3	22.0	19.9	+ 0.3	+ 2.4
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	1.2	1.2	1.4	0	- 0.2
Fabricated Metal Products	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	+ 0.1
Machinery	2.7	2.7	2.4	0	+ 0.3
Transportation Equipment	13.7	13.4	11.8	+ 0.3	+ 1.9
Ship & Boatbuilding & Repairing	10.0	9.7	8.2	+ 0.3	+ 1.8
Other Durable Goods	2.0	2.0	1.7	0	+ 0.3
Nondurable Goods	21.0	21.1	21.2	- 0.1	- 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	5.8	5.8	6.2	0	- 0.4
Apparel & Other Textile Products	1.7	1.8	1.8	- 0.1	- 0.1
Paper & Allied Products	0.8	0.8	0.7	0	+ 0.1
Printing & Publishing	3.8	3.8	3.6	0	+ 0.2
Chemicals and Allied Products	3.9	3.9	3.9	0	0
Petroleum & Coal Products	4.6	4.6	4.6	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
MINING	14.8	14.7	14.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	13.9	13.8	13.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
CONSTRUCTION	22.3	21.8	21.6	+ 0.5	+ 0.7
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	43.4	43.4	43.1	0	+ 0.3
Railroad Transportation	1.4	1.4	1.5	0	- 0.1
Water Transportation	12.9	12.8	12.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	133.5	133.6	133.8	- 0.1	- 0.3
Wholesale Trade	31.6	31.8	31.5	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	18.0	18.1	18.1	- 0.1	- 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	13.6	13.7	13.4	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	101.9	101.8	102.3	+ 0.1	- 0.4
General Merchandise	13.6	13.4	13.8	+ 0.2	- 0.2
Food Stores	18.5	18.7	18.4	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	35.2	35.2	35.4	0	- 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	34.0	34.2	33.6	- 0.2	+ 0.4
Banking	7.3	7.3	7.3	0	0
SERVICES	134.7	134.5	132.9	+ 0.2	+ 1.8
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	13.1	13.2	14.0	- 0.1	- 0.9
Health Services	36.2	36.0	35.0	+ 0.2	+ 1.2
GOVERNMENT	84.2	84.5	86.6	- 0.3	- 2.4
Federal	15.9	16.0	15.8	- 0.1	+ 0.1
State and Local	68.3	68.5	70.8	- 0.2	- 2.5
State	18.7	18.8	19.6	- 0.1	- 0.9
Local	49.6	49.7	51.2	- 0.1	- 1.6

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March '88*	February '88**	March '87**	March '88*	February '88**	March '87**	March '88*	February '88**	March '87**
All MANUFACTURING	\$420.86	\$423.55	\$431.47	40.9	40.3	40.4	\$10.29	\$10.51	\$10.68
Durable Goods	382.42	378.90	384.55	40.9	39.8	39.2	9.35	9.52	9.81
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	272.10	271.87	266.49	30.0	31.0	28.2	9.07	8.77	9.45
Fabricated Metal Products	421.31	429.55	415.23	43.3	40.6	41.9	9.73	10.58	9.91
Ship & Boatbuilding and Repairing	351.35	354.22	372.24	39.7	39.8	38.1	8.85	8.90	9.77
Nondurable Goods	462.99	470.42	473.62	40.9	40.8	41.4	11.32	11.53	11.44
Food & Kindred Products	309.49	314.00	321.39	36.8	36.3	37.9	8.41	8.65	8.48
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	183.12	176.23	192.15	33.6	32.1	35.0	5.45	5.49	5.49
Paper & Allied Products	439.15	403.13	391.50	48.1	45.5	43.5	9.13	8.86	9.00
Printing & Publishing	365.98	361.34	398.56	39.1	38.4	42.4	9.36	9.41	9.40
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	725.10	733.96	720.74	46.6	47.2	44.6	15.56	15.55	16.16

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 30,300 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the New Orleans LMA in March increased to 510,200, a level 400 above February. Gains were largely in the construction segment. Over the year, nonagricultural employment gained 3,200 workers, with increases in all industry divisions except wholesale and retail trade and government.

Manufacturing employment totaled 43,300 in March, up 200 from the previous month. Ship and boat building and repairing was responsible for the majority of the increase, due to more business. The nondurable goods segment was down 100 from the previous month, with apparel and other textile products experiencing a decrease in business.

Construction was boosted by significant increases in special trade and heavy construction contracts. Gains in services were mostly attributed to gradual increases in both the business and health services segments. Mining showed normal seasonal increases. Less favorably, government lost workers, partly reflecting difficulties in costs and funding. Finance, insurance and real estate adjusted downward, and transportation and public utilities held steady. Changes in wholesale and retail trade were mostly seasonal in nature.

Production workers in the area earned an average of \$420.86 per week in March, down \$2.69 from last month's average. Average weekly hours were 40.9, up 36 minutes from the previous month. Average hourly earnings were \$10.29, down \$0.22 from the previous month. Compared to one year ago, weekly earnings are down \$10.61 in manufacturing.

Estimated unemployment in March decreased to 57,300, a level 1,900 below February. The decrease in the labor force was mostly responsible. Joblessness presently comprises 9.8 percent of the labor force compared with 10.0 percent in February and 11.2 percent in March of last year. The March rate was lower than the state rate of 11.7 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits totaled 10,281.

Nonagricultural employment in the coming months is expected to show a slight overall increase. Gains will probably be attributed to seasonal increases in construction, mining, and transportation and public utilities. Unemployment will probably show a slight decrease.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1988*	February 1988**	March 1987**	Net Change From	
				February 1988	March 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	131.7	131.8	130.1	- 0.1	+ 1.6
MANUFACTURING	17.0	17.1	18.1	- 0.1	- 1.1
Durable Goods	12.3	12.5	13.0	- 0.2	- 0.7
Lumber and Wood Products	0.4	0.4	0.5	0	- 0.1
Metals and Machinery	7.2	7.4	7.6	- 0.2	- 0.4
Primary and Fabricated Metals	1.4	1.5	1.4	- 0.1	0
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	5.8	5.9	6.2	- 0.1	- 0.4
Other Durable Goods	4.7	4.7	4.9	0	- 0.2
Nondurable Good	4.7	4.6	5.1	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Food & Kindred Products	0.6	0.5	0.8	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Printing & Publishing	1.3	1.3	1.4	0	- 0.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.7	0.7	0.8	0	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	2.1	2.1	2.1	0	0
MINING	2.9	3.0	3.3	- 0.1	- 0.4
CONSTRUCTION	6.9	6.8	6.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	8.0	8.0	8.3	0	- 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	32.1	32.3	31.4	- 0.2	+ 0.7
Wholesale Trade	7.8	7.9	8.0	- 0.1	- 0.2
Retail Trade	24.3	24.4	23.4	- 0.1	+ 0.9
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	7.3	7.3	7.5	0	- 0.2
SERVICES	32.3	32.2	30.0	+ 0.1	+ 2.3
GOVERNMENT	25.2	25.1	25.2	+ 0.1	0
Federal	4.8	4.8	4.6	0	+ 0.2
State and Local	20.4	20.3	20.6	+ 0.1	- 0.2
State	6.0	6.0	6.1	0	- 0.1
Local	14.4	14.3	14.5	+ 0.1	- 0.1

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March '88*	February '88**	March '87**	March '88*	February '88**	March '87**	March '88*	February '88**	March '87**
All MANUFACTURING	\$480.73	\$464.13	\$485.21	41.3	40.5	40.2	\$11.64	\$11.46	\$12.07
Lumber and Wood Products	257.56	216.72	245.75	37.6	30.1	38.1	6.85	7.20	6.45
Metals and Machinery	468.42	474.29	524.58	42.2	43.0	42.0	11.10	11.03	12.49
Food and Kindred Products	332.48	293.18	345.68	39.3	37.3	41.9	8.46	7.86	8.25
Printing and Publishing	345.68	334.78	361.92	35.6	34.8	34.6	9.71	9.62	10.46
Petroleum and Coal Products	540.67	534.11	634.55	44.1	42.9	49.0	12.26	12.45	12.95

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 12,600 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment, estimated at 131,700, was mostly unchanged from the revised February total. Manufacturing employment dropped 100 while total nonmanufacturing employment remained the same as estimated for the previous month.

The manufacturing employment total of 17,000 moved down from 17,100 as durable goods production in metals and machinery met with reduced demands. The small employment gains in food and kindred products in nondurable goods were not enough to offset the job losses in durable goods.

The nonmanufacturing employment total of 114,700 was unchanged from February. The small gains over the month in construction, services and government were eliminated by the job losses occurring in mining and trade.

The Shreveport labor market area had an estimated 12,600 production workers in manufacturing with average weekly earnings of \$480.73, up \$16.60 from February, and \$4.48 less than the year-ago earnings. Average weekly hours of 41.3 were up from 40.5 for February and 40.2 in March, 1987. Average hourly earnings of \$11.64 were up from \$11.46 in February, but less than last year's estimate of \$12.07.

The Shreveport LMA's civilian labor force of 164,300 includes 145,800 employed and 18,500 unemployed. The March unemployment rate for this LMA was 11.3 percent.

Small gains in nonagricultural employment are expected during the next 60 days. Manufacturing employment will show some growth as a new firm begins operation. The new racing season will add jobs in both services and retail trade. Employment in government will probably decline. Total unemployment should slowly decline from the present level.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
RESEARCH AND STATISTICS UNIT, ROOM 220
P.O. BOX 94094
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804-9094

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
LAB 449

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

CONGRESSIONAL INFO SERVICE
ATTN: CHERYL WALDMAN
4520 EAST WEST HWY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

PLEASE RETURN THE LABEL
FROM THIS REPORT WHEN
REQUESTING ADDRESS CHANGES
OR CANCELLATION

